



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEDERAL JURY IN DEL RIO CONVICTS MAN OF ALIEN SMUGGLING

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 67 year old Felipe Javier Aguirre was convicted yesterday of two counts of conspiracy to transport and transportation of illegal aliens.

At trial, the government showed that on or about February 11, 2007, Zavala County Deputies pursued a Ford Expedition containing 10-15 illegal aliens which crashed and the occupants fled. A couple of hours later, a brown pickup truck slowed near the crash site and law enforcement pulled the truck over for a traffic violation. After making contact with the driver, Roque Silva Moreno, officers determined the driver and passenger were the driver and passenger of the bailout vehicle which crashed earlier. They were arrested for alien smuggling. A second car was also pulled over shortly after the first vehicle which was driven by defendant Felipe Javier Aguirre, who was believed to be involved in the alien smuggling operation.

At trial, the government showed that Aguirre worked as a scout to check the road for law enforcement and that he rented out vehicles to transport aliens. Co-conspirator testimony showed that Aguirre had been engaged in an ongoing conspiracy to smuggle aliens. Testimony also revealed that after the bailout, Aguirre arrived and took the driver and passenger of the bailout vehicle to his home, fed them, provided another vehicle to pick up the aliens, and agreed to act as a scout for the return trip. Roque Silva Moreno subsequently pleaded guilty to the alien smuggling charges and testified for the Government at trial.

The case was investigated by agents with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney Rick Bennett prosecuted the case on behalf of the Government.

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